

# LESSON PLAN

## **AT-HOME POETRY & ART PROJECT: Creative Black Out Poetry** **INSTRUCTIONS**

### **MATERIALS NEEDED FROM HOME:**

- A page of Old Books, Newspapers, Letters or Magazines
- Pencil
- Black Marker
- Possible Additional Supplies:
  - Colored Pencils
  - Watercolors
  - Colored Markers

### **ART PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

#### **What is Black Out Poetry?**

Blackout Poetry is a form of “found poetry” where you use existing text and manipulate it into something new. You select words that catch your interest from a newspaper, book, or other printed material – and make the words stand out so they become the content of your newly created poem. It's equally fun for kids and adults!

Participants will choose a page from an old book, newspaper article, letter or magazine (any written material) and visually scan the written page for words that are unique and of interest to them. Participants will circle their chosen words, and then color over the remaining text so that it is no longer seen. When only the circled words are visible, a new story is created from the existing text – your poem!

### **PROMPT QUESTIONS:**

- How do you think the text you choose might impact your poem?
- Do you think your poem has to make sense?

### **ART MAKING PROCESS:**

#### **Step 1:**

- Choose a page of text
- Select a written page you'd like to work with; it can be a page from an old book that catches your eye, a favorite scene from an old book, a copied story, a newspaper article that interests you, some dialog that seems exciting to you, a random chosen magazine article etc.
- The size of the page or article does not matter.

#### **Step 2:**

- Gather the interesting words.
- Scan the page looking for words and phrases that jump out at you. Circle those words **lightly** with your pencil.

#### **Step 3:**

- Determine what words to keep.
- Read through the list of words you've circled and begin to see your poem appearing.

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- Remember that we read from top to bottom and left to right, so the words need to be in that order so the reader will understand the poem in the same way you intend it.
- You may find words that you want to eliminate from your poem, or you may find that you need to use more. This is why using light pencil is helpful! Erase or add!

### Step 4:

- Refine your word choice.
- Read your poem aloud to make sure it makes sense, and it's how you want it to be read. You can also write it out.
- At this point begin thinking of the theme you'd like to convey in your poem. Is one emerging? What do you want the reader to understand or feel after having read your poem?

### Step 5:

- When happy with your poem, begin to blackout the page. (There is so much flexibility here!)
- Hide the remaining text by blackening (drawing a line through it) with a marker, or move on to Step 6 and connect the words of your poem with color and art.

### Step 6:

How to Add Art: (see examples below)

- After circling the words, use a pencil to sketch a design over the remaining of the page, that fits with the theme or images of your poem.
- Use a sharpie or black marker to outline. (Tip: If you're going to use watercolor to finish your poem, consider using a permanent sharpie for outlining so it won't bleed.)
- Gently erase all the pencil marks.
- Add Color! The Example below is with colored pencils. Feel free to experiment using watercolors, colored markers, collage with decorative papers, crayons, pastels, anything you might have at home.
- Think about how the images and colors you choose will impact the meaning and theme of your poem.

### POST PROMPT QUESTIONS:

- What is the feeling of your poem?
- How did the original text effect your theme?
- If you added visual art to your poem, how did it change it? Or enhance it?

# ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM

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### PROJECT EXAMPLES:

